<u>REMARKS</u>

By this amendment, claims 9 and 10 have been amended. Claims 12-20 have been canceled, and new claims 21 and 22 have been added.

The specification has been amended to state that this application is a national stage entry of and claims priority to International Application No. PCT/JP2004/013246, filed September 10, 2004, which in turn claims priority to Japanese Patent Application No. 2004-31194, filed February 6, 2004.

Prompt examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

Dated: December 7, 2006

Respectfully submitted

Thomas J. D'Amico

Registration No.: 28,371

David T. Beck

Registration No.: 54,985

DICKSTEIN SHAPIRO LLP

1825 Eye Street, NW

Washington, DC 20006-5403

(202) 420-2200

Attorney for Applicant